industry for larger venture funding as seed funds for start-up companies and angel venture capital funds for high risk-high profit biotech industry having long gestation period.

(b) The Department of Bio-technology established a major Bioinformatics network in the year 1986-87 with five centres of excellence, 11 Distributed Information Centres (DICs) and 5 Sub-DICs under the Biotechnology Information System Network (BTIS net). Over 20,000 Users are regularly interacting with this network for Bioinformatics support.

(c) The investment mainly from the Department of Biotechnology since 2001 for the promotion of biotechnology in the country is given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)
2001-02	174.94
2002-03	210 70
2003-04	263.79

In addition, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology and other Ministries are also investing on specific projects and activities and on their autonomous institutions.

Earthquakes in Gujarat

2333. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Gujarat, district Junagarh Tehsil 'Talala' there are frequent earthquakes in villages near 'Girnar' forest;

(b) whether seismologist or such experts have been sent by Government to locate or find the reasons of those earthquakes; and

(c) whether Government have taken any precautionary measures for the safety of people, property and animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The village Haripur in Tehsil Talala, in Junagarh district of Gujarat had experienced tremors during October-December, 2001. A micro earthquake survey was carried out by India Meteorological Department (IMD) to monitor these tremors.

More than a thousand tremors of magnitude ranging upto 3.0 on Richter scale were recorded during the period October-December, 2001. The Haripur village and nearby areas have again experienced blast like sounds during December 2004. A team of IMD scientists visited the affected areas and observed that these blast like sound are not associated with the seismic activity in the region.

(c) The local State Government authorities and Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority have been briefed about the reported activity. Guidelines issued by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for the safe design and construction of houses to minimize the damage to property and loss of life are in wide circulation among the local Government authorities. The damage due to future earthquake can be minimized considerably, by following these guidelines. Also the district administration has been organizing various consultative programmes and stage shows in the affected areas for educating the people about the earthquake and its occurrence, so that there is no panic or any wrong belief among the people for this phenomena.

Road projects for Delhi's satellite areas

2334. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/projects of Government do develop road transport and highways in the adjoining satellite towns of NCR Delhi like Rohtak, Panipat, Faridabad, Sonepat, Gurgaon etc., so that the NCR could be decongested of transport;

(b) if no scheme is there, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to formulate transport policy of NCR so that is satellite towns could develop a systematic transport life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development of National Highways. The details of the schemes/projects for development of National Highways connecting satellite towns of NCR Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) A Regional Plan-2021 including the Transport Policy has been prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the high-level group constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation after deliberations involving experts, non-officials and senior officers of the Government departments.